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EIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER









New In the Neighborhood!

Neighborhood Watch is ready and able to come to your neighborhood to host a volunteer meeting for our program!

Check out our articles inside this edition on how to set up a meeting in your "Hood!" on page 2.



IN MEMORY

The Vella Family and the Huntington Beach Police Department would like to thank all our community members for the immense support we received during the tragic loss of Officer Vella. During the month of February and March, various agencies came together to put together fundraisers to continue supporting Officer Vella's family as they continue to cope with their loss.



National Police Week is May 15 - 21

National Police Week occurs every May. In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day. During the week in which May 15 falls, agencies across the country pay special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others. Given our recent loss of Officer Vella, several of our Officers will join the Police Unity Tour this year to honor the loss of the officers who have died in the line of duty.

About NW

Block Meetings

There are several ways that HBPD and HB Neighborhood Watch can assist residents who deal with quality-of-life issues. In our pre-covid meetings, holiday crimes, vehicle theft, and homelessness issues had been addressed. But "crimes of opportunity" can be avoided by being mindful of your surroundings, locking your doors, removing valuables from your car, and by removing packages from your doorsteps as soon as you can. If you see anything suspicious in your neighborhood don't hesitate to contact the police department. It is also good to get to know your neighbors online or in person. If no one reports a crime, your whole community can be impacted. Simply offer a hello and open the door to a new friendship! Some contact numbers are listed on page 3. You can also visit the City's website at:

www.huntingtonbeachca.gov

Or visit the department in person for more detailed information on your specific concerns. If you would like to start a new Neighborhood Watch Program or arrange a Neighborhood Watch Block meeting for your neighborhood, please call 714-536-5245



Did you know? One in 5 adults experiences a mental health crisis, and nearly 60% of them do not receive the proper assistance that is needed to heal and thrive

In Huntington Beach, the City receives 15,000 calls for service each year involving mental health, substance abuse, and similar crises. Be Well OC in Huntington Beach (BWOC) is a Mobile Crisis Response Team, composed of two Crisis Counselors who drive to your location and provide in-community assessment and stabilization services.

The teams are well-trained and experienced in providing appropriate information, referrals, transportation to services, and additional follow-up support and case management - to help address mental health related situations



Be Well OC in Huntington Beach is prepared to help with a variety of non-emergency and non-medical, public assistance situations that have historically been handled by the Huntington Beach Police Department (HBPD). For many of those scenarios, Be Well OC in Huntington Beach is better equipped to de-escalate and assist these situations:

- Suicidal ideas
- Public assistance
- Non-domestic violence & family disputes
- Drug and alcohol abuse/addiction
- Welfare checks

(Continued on Page 3)



BELATED HAPPY EASTER!

On behalf of Knight & the rest of us at #HBPD, we wish you & your family a happy & safe holiday. PS...don't let Knight's expression fool you; he loves the ears!







(Continued from Page 2)

- Death notification
- Homelessness, with the H.B. Homeless Task Force BWOC is staffed through *Be Well Orange County*, an innovative organization that leverages the nationally-recognized CAHOOTS crisis response model to help improve outcomes for those in need, lower overall costs for the community, and support law enforcement and EMS, so they can focus on calls where they are needed most urgently.

Courtesy Surf City Break: https://www.surfcitybreak.com



CUT AND PASTE

Police Emergency 911

Information Desk 714 960-8843

Non-Emergency/Dispatch

714 960-8825

Graffiti Hotline

714 960-8861

POLICE Business Line

714 960-8811

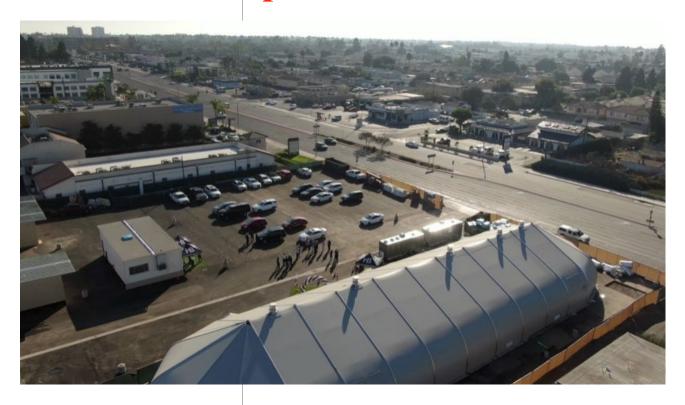
Community Relations

714 536-5245

Vacation house Checks

714 374-1507

Huntington Beach notes results in annual homelessness report



The city of Huntington Beach is making slow but steady progress on its homelessness goals, a recent report finds. "Obviously there's more work to be done. The issue of homelessness is a large issue that's multifaceted. There's not one single solution because every person is different," said Jennifer Carey, spokesperson for the city.

What You Need To Know

- Staff contacted 4,411 homeless residents in 2021.
- The Navigation Center was forced to reduce capacity to align with social distancing requirements but will soon be back to full capacity.
- The Navigation Center helped place 71 people with housing vouchers and helped put 45 people into permanent housing.
- The city is considering additional investments that will go into facilities for drug and alcohol detoxification of Huntington Beach.

(Continued on page 5)

City of Huntington Beach

(Continued from page 4)

Surf City, like other neighboring cities, has been adding program after program to decrease homeless numbers. Some programs help people find permanent housing with a relative or through various private or government programs. Social workers help link people up with jobs or mental health treatment. And the city's Navigation Center offers people a place to stay while they sort out something long term or permanent.

"It is never easy to ask for help, so when members of our homeless community are ready to accept services, it is important they have a safe, clean and well-managed facility, like the Navigation Center, available to them," said Huntington Beach Mayor Barbara Delgleize in a news release.

The city has also contracted with Be Well OC to operate vans that can respond to non-emergency mental health calls. That program, though not specifically for homeless people, regularly responds to disturbances instead of police.

So far, the Be Well OC service has siphoned roughly 200 calls a month from the Huntington Beach Police Department. The city is getting a second van soon, Carey said, to further ease the strain on police.

No one program can solve the problem because people are complex, as are the reasons that lead them to homelessness.

The city council has been deeply invested in solving the problem, with some members saying that homelessness is the top issue constituents want addressed.

The homelessness report also noted that the city made contact more than 4,400 times in 2021. At the Navigation Center, the city helped 248 individuals get benefits or documents like Social Security cards. And 448 received help with substance use.

But not all are ready or willing to accept help, requiring social workers and other staff to contact them in the eventual hope they'll agree to accept a housing voucher or other help.

The report also noted that the city has matched 71 people with housing vouchers and placed 45 people into permanent housing.

Carey said it's not always quick or easy getting people the help they need. Many times, homeless people delivered into the system don't have Social Security cards or driver's licenses. Those are crucial documents for anyone in search of a job, housing or any of the deepening list of programs designed to help the homeless.

The city has more plans to increase its efforts to help homeless people off the streets.

With appreciation, article from "SurfCity," April 12, 2022

Your Neighborhood Watch Volunteers!

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HB INTRODUCES ORDINANCE TO COMBAT CATALYTIC CONVERTOR THEFTS IN THE CITY



The theft of catalytic converters has risen 300% nationally over the past fiscal year. And three of every ten thefts have occurred right here in California. Catalytic converters are located underneath a vehicle and are designed to reduce pollutants released from the exhaust system. However, catalytic converters also contain precious metals like platinum, palladium, etc., which makes them valuable on the black market. To reduce the chance of theft in Huntington Beach, the Huntington Beach Police Department (HPBD) has hosted several catalytic converter etching events in collaboration with ExperTec. Etching identification numbers onto catalytic converters makes them traceable and less attractive to thieves. Additionally, HBPD recommends parking vehicles in well-lit areas and installing protective cages on the catalytic converters. (Continued on page 7)

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To further reduce the chances of these crimes occurring in Huntington Beach, the City Council passed Ordinance 4251, which makes it unlawful for any individual other than a Core Recycler of catalytic converters to possess a catalytic converter that is not attached to a vehicle without valid proof of ownership.

While the theft of catalytic converters will be difficult to prevent completely, these tools and tactics implemented by HBPD with the support of City Council can make Surf City more inhospitable to thieves.

With appreciation, article from SurfCity, April 12, 2022



Tried and True Reminders for Neighborhood Watch

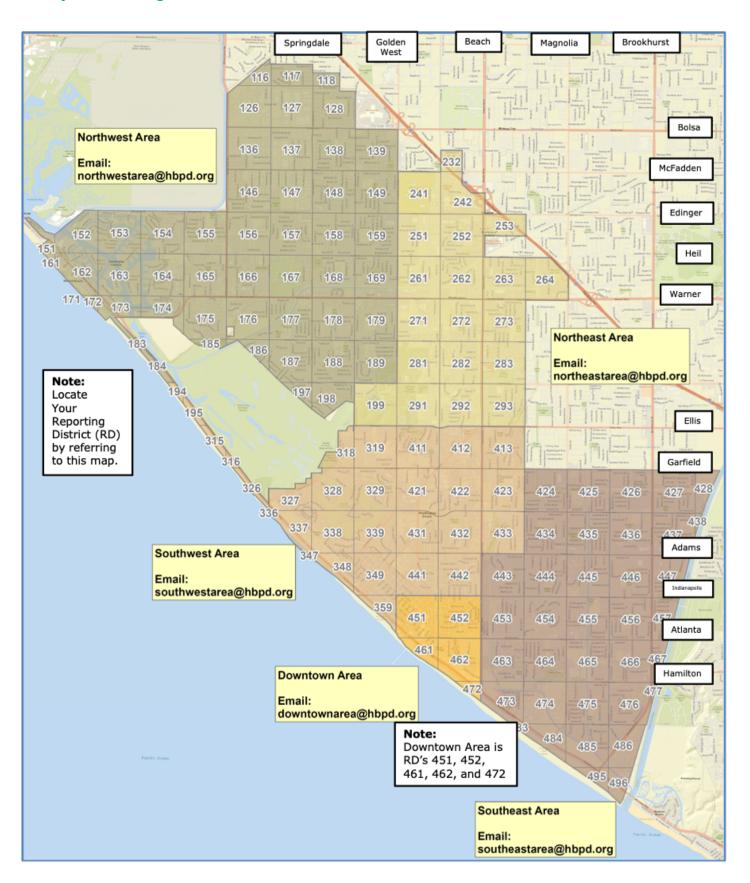
Neighborhood Watch continues to alert the public to apply the following safety tips for your vehicle and your home! Lock your car, hide any valuables, and be aware while shopping during the holidays. At home, close your garage door, secure windows and doors, and be alert for suspicious activity. Rear slide doors and window screens are easy to force open. And be aware of your location: If you are very near Beach Blvd, a busy street, or the freeway, a thief can make a quick getaway. Be Alert and Stay Safe!

For current crime information go to www.huntingtonbeachca.gov and click on government/departments/police/crime info!

HBPD Patrol Areas Map

Crime Data HB Police patrol areas are the Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, Southeast, and Downtown. Your RD (Reporting District) is the half-mile square surrounding your home. *locate your area and road coordinates* to familiarize where your home is located in Huntington Beach. In some cases, your AREA/ROAD is identified on your mailing address label.

(please check the map on the following page 8 of this newsletter)



Team Prince





COMMUNITY SERVICE CONTINUES

by Jeff Huss

Huntington Beach Police Department retirees continue to volunteer their time, resources, and the generosity of many in the community to better serve non-profit organizations.

They're known as **Team Prince** and honor the memory of fallen Huntington Beach Policeman Leslie J Prince, EOW: 12-01-1974 and most recently, Officer Nicholas Vella. EOW: 02-19-2022.

Team Prince this year is comprised of retired officers, Jeff Huss and John Mauger who will be competing in a road rally in June to benefit <u>Hope For The Warriors</u>. This organization provides comprehensive services that support the well-being of post 9/11 veterans. All active-duty, military families, caregivers and families of the fallen.

The road rally is coordinated by <u>Rally North America Charities LLC</u>, and Team Prince is one of eighty teams from the United States and Canada who fundraise for the selected charity through several states.

The Monument Rally 2022 begins in Durango, CO and ends five days later in Las Vegas, NV.

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Each rally is organized by Rally North America (RNA) and carries a common idea – driving for a cause. RNA believes that by combining the love of the automotive lifestyle and a worthy charitable organization, it is possible to do something "good" through this automotive hobby.

To date, RNA events have raised nearly \$2 million in direct donations to their chosen charity partners, and this year it will benefit <u>Hope For The Warriors</u>. Huss said he was humbled by the stories he heard from police survivors losing a loved one, or those family members with rare life-threatening illnesses, and our warriors coping with their issues.

These rallies are a scavenger-hunt-style and Team Prince first participated in 2018 to benefit Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS) and earned a second-place finish on the third day of competition. Last year they probably should have won the "hard Luck" award for getting a flat tire on their first day in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Mauger said, "Like any competitive team we hope we can do better this year."

If this has interested you to give "road rally" a try, check out the Rally North America website or Facebook page. If you would like to help support Team Prince in their efforts to support 'Hope For The Warriors' please go to their donation page to help:

https://support.hopeforthewarriors.org/teamprince

Follow them during their adventure in June on our Facebook and Instagram social media @teamprince42.

All individuals and businesses names will be listed on their rally vehicle, which is a 2019 Dodge Durango SRT 392 provided to the team by Radford Racing School in Chandler, AZ.

NOTE: With the recent death of Officer Nick Vella, Team Prince has changed their team sticker for the rally paying tribute and honor to all of the Department's fallen as their "Guardians." (See Above)